

My name is Jack A. Blosser, and I am a resident of Grand Blanc.

I was born in Detroit in 1931. My family moved to Flint when I was about four, and I have lived in the area since then. In 1942, my cousin and I were looking at patriotic pictures of servicemen, one of whom, a Marine, was smoking a pipe.

I loudly proclaimed that when I grew up, I was going to be a Marine, and I, too, would smoke a pipe. You see, in those days, nearly every adult male smoked.

My dad, a lifelong smoker, was standing nearby. He took a drag on his ever-present Lucky Strike, removed a clean white handkerchief from his pocket and blew through it. Without a word, he held it out to me, and I recoiled at the ugly yellow-brown stain that confronted me.

A permanent Trench rat in the Great Tobacco War was born that day! I have never had a cigarette in my mouth, and I never will. I was probably just a buck private until Surgeon General Luther Terry's 1964 proclamation of the harmful effects of tobacco turned me into an avid foe.

Some years later, I wrote my first letter to the editor at The Flint Journal, and I was off and running.

I am not an anti-smoker; anti-tobacco, yes, but I realize that the enemy is the product, and those who produce and promote it so unconscionably, not the user. That said, I am distressed and irritated by those who claim the "right" to discard their cigarette butts wherever and whenever they wish, leaving literally tons of residue on streets, sidewalks, and parking lots everywhere.

Not only do they not degrade, but also I have seen children pick them up. Here are examples of just one very quick walk around a children's play area in beautiful little Physicians Park in Grand Blanc. The larger amount was on the outside perimeter of the play area, and yet there was even one cigarette butt inside the fenced area, where tiny tots are no more than 1 to 3 feet away!

To our legislators, I suggest that when people cannot police themselves, it is up to the public to do it for them. We need to stop the litter in our streets, sidewalks, parks and parking lots, and we need smoke-free Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants, and we need the legislation now! We are not talking rights, we are talking health.

Thank you.